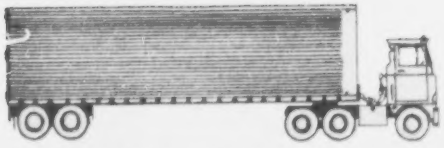
2/11/87 A3075-1 A



MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS 2200 MILL ROAD ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 (703) 838-1791

TONNAGE INDEX DECREASES IN DECEMBER

General freight carrier tonnage decreased 3.7 points in December, 1986, from November, 1986 according to the ATA Truck Tonnage Index. At a level of 152.7(p) with 1967 = 100; the December tonnage is 2.4 percent below November's 156.4(r). The current month's volume is 15.9 points (11.6 percent) above the tonnage level in December, 1985.

The actual tons reported by motor carriers in the ATA survey increased from 4.25 million tons in November to 4.34 million tons in December, 1986. Actual tons increased 2.1%. Adjustments for variations due to seasonality and the number of working (trading) days decreased the December index level to 152.7(p).

From November, 1986 to December, 1986, Industrial Production index increased 0.5% compared to the adjusted general freight tonnage index decrease of 2.4%.

These findings were announced today by the American Trucking Associations. (ATA) Statistical Analysis Department. The monthly truck tonnage index is based on a survey of the companywide operations of Class I and II motor carriers of general freight. Index coverage represents in excess of one-half of the tonnage moved by this type of for-hire motor carriers of property subject to Interstate Commerce Commission regulation.

Month-to-month data are compiled using a chain link which, in turn, has been adjusted to remove the normal seasonal influence and variations due to differing numbers of business (trading) days each month.

The current and historic index numbers are shown on the reverse side, along with several other major business indicator series. A "three-month moving average" adjusted truck tonnage index has also been compiled which aids in smoothing out short term non-significant movements in the series.

Cumulative tonnage for 1986 increased 2.8 percent compared to the same period in 1985 for the carriers in the survey.

---

p - preliminary r - revised f - final

INDEXES AND COMPARISONS THROUGH DECEMBER, 1986
1967 = 100

	DEC 1986	NOV 1986	OCT 1986	DEC 1985	Monthly % Change 11/86 / 10/86	Monthly % Change 12/86 / 11/86	Yearly % Change
Tonnage Index (adjusted)[1]	152.7p	156.4r	159.0f	136.3f	-1.6	-2.4	+11.6
Tonnage Index (unadjusted)	146.9p	143.9r	170.4f	126.9f	-15.6	+2.1	+15.8
Industrial Production Index[2,5] (total)	126.6	126.0	125.3	126.3	+0.6	+0.5	+0.2
Manufacturers (total)	131.4	130.5	129.9	129.2	+0.5	+0.7	+1.7
Non-durable	133.8	133.1	132.3	128.3	+0.6	+0.5	+4.3
Durable	129.6	129.7	128.2	129.3	+0.4	+0.7	-0.2
Producer Price Index[3] (unadjusted)	298.1	298.7	290.5	297.2	+2.8	-0.2	+0.3
Consumer Price Index[4] (unadjusted)	331.1	330.8	330.5	327.4	+0.1	+0.1	+1.1
Tonnage Reported by 118 Carriers in December, 1986 (000 tons)	4,337	4,248	n.a.	4,129*	n.a.	+2.1	+5.0

---

p - preliminary r - revised f - final n.a. - not applicable

1 - Adjusted seasonally & for trading days
2 - Seasonally adjusted
3 - Finished goods (formerly Wholesale Price Index)
4 - Goods and services
5 - 1977=100

* The December 1985 tonnage figure is taken from the current reports received from carriers (December 1986) and bears no relationship to the tonnage indices shown above.

ADJUSTED MONTHLY TRUCK INDEX — HISTORICAL — 1967 = 100

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
January	152.7	129.3	126.9	144.4	140.9	142.9
February	153.0	133.6	127.3	142.2	138.5	141.3
March	152.9	130.8	128.9	143.4	139.1	138.4
April	153.0	130.8	130.2	146.3	137.3	144.3
May	153.5	130.9	133.6	144.0	137.1	140.9
June	150.8	131.8	136.1	143.1	133.7	141.9
July	151.2	128.4	150.9	144.8	132.2	154.0
August	145.8	129.7	137.1	145.3	134.3	153.6
September	143.9	128.5	138.5	141.1	135.1	154.3
October	139.8	125.4	138.4	144.0	138.3	159.0
November	135.8	121.3	138.7	145.2	140.3	156.4r
December	131.1	125.9	142.3	143.3	136.8	152.7p

* all data are final unless otherwise noted.

Three Month Moving Average of Adjusted Truck Tonnage Index for Recent Months

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1984	143.0	143.3	144.0	144.6	144.5	144.0	144.4	143.7	143.5	143.4	144.2	143.1
1985	140.9	139.5	138.3	137.8	136.0	134.3	133.4	133.9	135.9	137.0	138.5	140.0
1986	140.5	141.0	141.7	141.4	142.5	145.6	149.8	154.0	155.6	156.6r	156.0p	

The moving average aids in smoothing out less significant monthly variations.